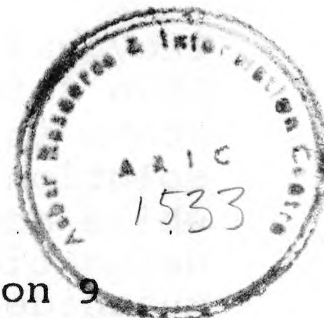
# * * * ACBAR News Summary No. 1 * * *




Aid and Political Issues in Afghanistan - July/August 1991

**Aid Developments:**
The head of USAID operation in Pakistan said in an interview on 9 August that USAID will start cutting down its staff in Pakistan from the end of this year. USAID presence in Pakistan will gradually reduce and will not last beyond 1994. According to Ted Weiss, a US congressman, US support to mujahideen will decrease.

Operation Salam has abandoned or cut 57 of its projects in Afghanistan. This appeared in a statement in Operation Salam's progress report released from UNOCA simultaneously from Islamabad, Kabul, Teheran and Termez (Soviet Uzbakistan.) UNOCA's budget was slashed from 136 million US$ to 105 million US$ and still UNOCA requires 26 million US $ in cash to make up the 105 million US $.

Mr. Pierce Gerety, acting chief of mission of the local office of the UNHCR in Peshawar, confirmed in his statement issued on 10 August that UNHCR had suggested that the Pakistan Government should issue Pak nationality for those Afghans who do not want or can not return to their homeland even if there is a complete peace in that country.




**Military Developments:**
There was fierce fighting in different parts of Afghanistan between mujahideen and Kabul troops. In Jalalabad mujahideen had captured many regime posts. The main road between Kabul and Jalalabad was closed by mujahideen two weeks ago. In the north of Afghanistan the supervisory council of Jamiat-e-Islami captured three border districts and now Takhar province is completely free and under the control of mujahideen, while Wahkhan and Sheghnan districts in Badakhshan are also free.

**Political Developments:**
At the end of July 1991 a two-day tripartite conference to find an early political settlement of the Afghan issue, comprising Afghan mujahideen based in Iran and Pakistan, Iranian foreign minister, and Pakistan general secretary for foreign affairs, was held in Islamabad. Five Pakistan based mujahideen parties, one Hezb-e-Wahdat Iran based mujahideen party, plus two independent mujahideen groups, attended the conference, while Hezb-e- Islami Khalis boycotted the conference and Sayyaf's representatives also boycotted the conference in protest against what he called "dubious attitude of Iranian delegation" after participating in the unofficial meeting which was held on the day before the conference. Harakat-e-Islami Shaikh Asif Mohseni, a now Pakistan based Shia Party, also boycotted the conference.

At the end of the conference a joint declaration was issued. It stated that the people of Afghanistan must be able to choose their own Government without outside intervention or pressure. Conditions should be created for the voluntary return of the refugees to their homes in safety and honour; such a settlement would alone bring peace to Afghanistan and strengthen security and stability for the entire region.... .

A Soviet delegation visited Pakistan on 11 and 12 August this year.

They had talks with Pakistani high ranking officials. President Ishaq Khan said "We see common desire for sovereign, independent, non-aligned state in Kabul." PM. Nawaz Sharif said that he is now for an early solution of the Afghan problem. Committed to a political solution, while meeting with the Afghan mujahideen the head of the Soviet delegation said " if a political dialogue continues between the mujahideen and the USSR, the latter could consider the cessation of arms supply to the Kabul regime."

Pakistan has for the first time given an indication that it would not oppose a representative of the Kabul regime participating in an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Mujahideen and Soviets agreed to continue talks on Afghanistan. The next round of tripartite talks would be in Tehran later this month (August), while the next round of talks between USSR and mujahideen will be in Moscow.

After the fall of three border districts in the last week of July to the mujahideen in the northern provinces of Badakhshan and Kunduz, mujahideen had talks on border issues and non-interference accords with their Soviet counterparts.

Organization for Islamic Conference (OIC) called for a political solution of the Afghan issue in its last conference held in Istanbul from 4 August to 9 August.

Benon Sevan, UN Secretary General's Special Representative, had several talks with different Pakistani, Iranian, Kabul regime and mujahideen leaders in the last 4 weeks. The main issue of the discussion was the UN 5 point peace plan and other matters related to the problem of Afghanistan. He welcomed the outcome of the tripartite conference in Islamabad and he called it the first step toward peace in Afghanistan.

<u>Security Matters</u>:

An Afghan writer, Dastagir Shekib, was killed in his house along with his wife in early August; another Abdul Rahim Chenzai, editor of the Farsi publication <u>Faryad</u>, was kidnapped and is still missing. The dead body of a German nationality Afghan was found in Nasirbagh Road some time back in this month. On 4 August, Osman Miranai, brother of Dr Farooq Miranai, Director of Afghan Aid Association, was shot five times with a pistol in the chest but survived.

Four USAID workers, one expatriate and three Afghans, were abducted in Khybar Agency for almost one week from 1 August to 6 August before being released. Two Americans are still hostage in Ghazni Province of Afghanistan, while another ICRC worker Alexandre Ghelew (27) was held in Kabul province by some anti-government mujahideen from 10 August untill his release on 18 August. Some unknown people attempted to kidnap a UN vehicle in Abdara Road, Peshawar in the middle of July, but after some altercation with patrol police they escaped. The vehicle was on its way to Peshawar Airport to collect a UN official.

Sources: The News; The Nation; Pakistan Times; Frontier Post and Muslim. For more information you are welcome to use our press clipping service.

Abdul Hakim
Local Information Officer
19 August 1991

# * * * ACBAR News Summary No. 2 * * *

Aid and Political Issues in Afghanistan - September 1991

**Aid Developments:**
On 3 September, Reuter from Kabul reported that vital Soviet food and fuel supplies to Afghanistan appeared to have virtually dried up since the political convulsions in the Soviet Union, causing Kabul prices to soar along with fears about the coming winter.

Mr Labreveux, head of the local UNHCR office in Quetta, said on 3 September that more than 12,000 Afghan refugee families in Balochistan had surrendered their ration cards to UNHCR officials since the launching of the UN pilot project for repatriation in July 1990.

Peter Tomson, US Special Envoy for Afghan Mujahideen, called on Wednesday 4 September on the Secretary General, Pakistan Foreign Affairs, Mr Akram Zaki, and assured him of continued US humanitarian assistance to alleviate the hardships of the Afghan refugees.

A high ranking delegation of the UNHCR is visiting Pakistan in mid September in order to examine the assistance programme for Afghan refugees in the light of declining international support. The 1991 UNHCR budget for the care and maintenance of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is US $28m, US $3m less then last year's budget. This does not include the money spent by WFP to arrange food supplies for the refugees.

**Military Developments:**
UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, appealed on Thursday 12 September to Afghan mujahideen not to attack Kabul; UN officials warned that an assault could start a blood bath that would jeopardise chances for peace.

On Friday 13 September, the Soviet Union and the United States announced that on 1 January 1992 they would both stop shipment of weapons to their allies in the Afghan conflict. In a joint press conference in Moscow, US Secretary of State, James Baker, and Soviet Foreign Minister, Boris Pankin, said they had reached an agreement aimed at ending the Afghan civil war. "The discontinuation of Soviet and US arms supplies to conflicting Afghan sides is one of the crucial elements of this agreement", Mr Pankin said.

**Political Developments:**
The former King of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, said that recent happenings in the Soviet Union were of great significance for the people of Afghanistan. He welcomed stability in the Soviet Union and restoration of a system acceptable to the majority of the Soviet people; however, he also expressed the desire that the Soviet Union would discharge its responsibilities and play its due role in the just settlement of the Afghan conflict.

The two-day tripartite talks between Iran, Pakistan and Afghan mujahideen aimed at ending the Afghan war concluded in Teheran on Thursday 29 August. A joint communique issued at the end of the talks said that Afghan mujahideen are ready to hold direct talks with the Soviet Union. The communique described the UN Peace Plan for Afghanistan as positive. It was hoped that the Afghan issue could be rapidly resolved after the recent developments in Moscow.

Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the chief of Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan, said that all the points proposed in Islamabad were thoroughly reviewed in the Teheran talks. He further said that the third round of the tripartite talks would be held in Islamabad.

Three major political parties of Afghan mujahideen, Hezb-e-Islami (Hekmatyar), Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) and Ittehad-i-Islami (Sayyaf), boycotted the second round of tripartite talks held in Teheran.

UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, arrived in Teheran on Tuesday 10 September in an attempt to further his peace plan for Afghanistan. During his visit, he discussed his five-point peace plan with mujahideen leaders based in Iran and Pakistan. He said: "Through them I have made an appeal to all mujahideen factions to refrain from military activity in order to give a chance to my efforts."

On 14 September, Mr Perez de Cuellar, said that he had strong support from Saudi Arabia for his efforts to resolve the Afghan conflict.

The mujahideen leaders reiterated their refusal to make any compromise with the Kabul government, which they consider illegal, and Mr Mujaddedi, President of the Afghan Interim Government, said that the UN plan contained points that needed to be clarified. The mujahideen leaders also called for UN support to transfer power from Najibullah to the mujahideen. Professor Sayyaf, Prime Minister of AIG, said that: "We are only bound by the national interests of our nation and the fundamental objectives of our Islamic jehad. Nothing else other than the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan could make us stop the fighting." He added: "I want to point out, that from our point of view, if the UN plan is carried out according to the wishes of Perez de Cuellar, Russia and America, it would not only fail to solve the Afghan problem, but would lead to violence and lawlessness in the war-ravaged Afghanistan."

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan and UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar, have agreed that the process of finding a political solution of the Afghan crisis should be accelerated as further delay in this regard would be fatal. They agreed that there should be intra-Afghan dialogue and expressed satisfaction over the last two rounds of trilateral talks. Mr de Cuellar said that UN presence would be necessary for general elections when held, directly or through Loi Jirga, to ensure their impartiality.

**Security Matters:**
Scores of civilians were killed and injured and large scale destruction was caused to civilian property in a week of heavy bombing (18-23 August) by Kabul regime jet fighters in the provinces of Bamian, Badakhshan, Takhar and Parwan. The Kabul regime is continuing aerial bombardment of the areas under the control of Mujahideen. Taluqan, the capital of Takhar province in north Afghanistan, was once again heavily pounded by Kabul's jet fighters in the morning of 4 September.

On 2 September a letter issued by the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees announced that all foreign nationals working in NGOs are banned from entering Afghanistan until security has improved cross-border. This ban does not apply to UN officials.

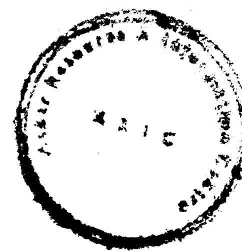
The Hezb i Islami (Hekmatyar) and Jamaatul Da'wa have agreed to send a five-member Jirga to Kunar to arbitrate between the two warring mujahideen groups. According to Afghan News Agency, this decision was taken in a meeting of three representatives each of the two parties held on Wednesday 4 September. It said that they endorsed the decision to solve all problems through a shura which was made earlier by Hezb chief Engineer Hekmatyar and the slain leader of Jamaatul Da'wa, Moulvi Jamil Rahman.

On 29 August, an Afghan deminer was shot and killed in Paktika close to the Pakistan border when the convoy in which he was travelling was ambushed. Agencies working in Paktika are now having discussions with local commanders and shura to try to improve security conditions. Meanwhile the two American hostages in Ghazni are still being held; ransom demands have been made but there has been no further development.

Sources: The News; The Nation; Frontier Post and Muslim. For more information you are welcome to use our press clipping service.

18 September 1991
ACBAR, UPO Box 1084/860, 2 Rehman Baba Road, University Town, Peshawar

# * * * ACBAR News Summary No. 3 * * *



Aid and Political Issues in Afghanistan, 28 October 1991

**Military Developments:**
Fresh fighting started on 1 October to capture Gardez, a city about 60 miles south of the capital Kabul. The fighting is still continuing.

On 12 October mujahideen launched the long awaited ground offensive on Jalalabad, provincial capital of Ningarhar. Mujahideen attacks on the regime posts and military bases are still continuing.

**Political Developments:**
The US Special Envoy for the Afghan mujahideen, Mr Peter Tomson, said in a press conference on 28 September that he is hopeful about a political settlement of the Afghan conflict in the light of certain developments abroad. He expressed the hope that his country would use its influence to resolve the problem politically and stated that, in order to achieve this goal, the US government has signed an agreement with the Soviet Union on the provesion of arms. He described the negative symmetry agreement as a positive step towards the settlement of the Afghan issue. He further added that it was now high time for the United States and the Soviet Union to extend full cooperation to the United Nations in this regard, enabling Afghans to settle the issue through talks.

Zahir Shah, the former Afghan king, has expressed his willingness to return to Kabul, provided that President Najib and his government announce the date on which they would tender their resignations. He made the announcement in an interview with the Pashto service of the BBC on 1 October. The ex-king said that he would be willing to play a role if it would help bring peace to his country.

The mujahideen's first meeting with Nawaz Sharif was held at the beginning of October in Lahore before they left for New York. It was agreed in that meeting that a delegation representing the mujahideen would go to New York in connection with UN General Assembly session. It was further agreed that another delegation would visit Moscow at a date to be fixed later.

Soviet Foreign Minister, Boris Pankin, met a delegation of the Afghan mujahideen headed by Sibghatullah Mujaddadi in New York on 1 October. The main topic of their conversation was the release of Soviet prisoners of war. Pankin confirmed that the Soviet Union does not insist on the return home of the released prisoners of war; they may go to a third country if they prefer. The main issue is that they should be freed. He added that "We hope Soviet people will be released soon now that the Soviet Union and the United States have decided to stop arms deliveries to Afghanistan."

King Fahad of Saudi Arabia and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan discussed the Afghan problem and the Middle East peace process on 9 October. Ghulam Ishaq briefed Saudi leaders on his talks with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and UN Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar, in Tehran last month. The trip focused on the UN proposals of 21 May for a peaceful solution to the 13-year Afghan conflict.

Mr Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with the Afghan mujahideen leaders on 14 October. This was the second meeting in a fortnight. The mujahideen delegation led by Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, President of Afghan Interim Government (AIG), returned to Islamabad on 11 October from

New York, after lobbying for the Afghan cause at the United Nations in New York during the previous two weeks. They briefed the Prime Minister of Pakistan about their discussion with the leaders of other countries, in particular the United States Secretary of State, James Baker, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Boris Pankin, as well as Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar. As well as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Saudi Prince, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddiq Kanju, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, Secretary for Foreign Affairs Shahryar Khan, and Pakistan's Ambassador to Moscow Ashraf Jehangir Kazi attended the briefing meeting.

In a report to the UN General Assembly, released on 22 October, the UN Secretary General said that the situation in Afghanistan had reached a "critical stage" but that a "unique opportunity" existed to resolve the question. He added: "I have been given assurances that some of the controversial personalities concerned would not insist on their personal participation, either in the intra-Afghan dialogue or in some transitional mechanism". This was widely held to infer that Najibullah may step down.

Discussions were held at the Pakistan Prime Minister House on 25 October in which all groups of Afghan mujahideen were represented. Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, who was later joined by Prince Turki Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia at the meeting, urged the Afghan mujahideen leaders to start the peace process without delay. Mr Nawaz Sharif encouraged the mujahideen to send an effective delegation to Moscow and enter into serious discussions with the Soviets. The international environment today is congenial for a political solution of the problem ensuring permanent peace in Afghanistan, Mr Nawaz Sharif told the mujahideen representatives.



A delegation of Afghan mujahideen leaders will visit Moscow on 3 November. However, serious doubts have arisen whether the delegation would be able to undertake its journey to the Soviet Union following the refusal of Hezb-e-Islami Hekmatyar, Itehad-e-Islami Sayyaf, and Hizb-e-Islami Khalis, to attend the Moscow talks.

<u>Security Matters:</u>

Haji Mohammed Amin Ferotan, deputy leader of the Harakat Inqelab Islami Afghanistan and editor of Weekly <u>Kauser</u>, sustained serious injuries along with his bodyguard when they were attacked by some armed persons in Hayatabad on 22 September. The culprits escaped and a case was registered with Hayatabad police.

The dead body of an Afghan refugee boy was recovered from G-10/4 area in Islamabad on 24 September. The family of the boy claimed that signs of violence and torture were found on the body of the boy who had been arrested by police two days back. The next day, about two thousand Afghans protested in front of the United Nations office in Islamabad whose officials promised to look into the matter.

A non-governmental organization, Welfare and Relief Committee (WRC), has complained that it suffered huge material losses in the recent fighting in Kunar province of Afghanistan. A press release of WRC on 24 September said that all farm equipment except two tractors were missing from WRC offices in Asadabad, capital of Kunar.

One of the two American hostages in Afghanistan was released on 22 October. The hostage, Dr William Louis, working with NGO "Global Partners", was kidnapped along with another American early July this year in Ghazni for ransom. According to Radio VOA, no ransom has been paid to the captors and the hostage release came through a mediator.

Sources: The News; The Nation; Frontier Post and Muslim. For more information you are welcome to use our press clipping service.

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